

One Dollar and a Half a Year.

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Ehrhardt News.

Ehrhardt, Jan. 14.—With the beginning of the new year, many signs of improvement are to be noted as indicative of a substantial growth of this town during the twelve months past.

Fourteen commodious dwellings have been added to the residence section, representing an increase, possibly, of \$30,000 to real estate values; while half as many more dwellings have been wonderfully improved by the use of the paint brush.

Several new business enterprises have been launched during the same time, while the most recent statements of the two banks indicate most prosperous conditions with them.

The older of these is the Ehrhardt Banking Co., Jno. L. Copeland, president, J. C. Kinard, vice-president, and A. F. Henderson, cashier. Their report shows a net earning of 17 per cent., a dividend of 10 per cent. with \$1,000 passed to surplus and the remainder being credited to real estate, fixtures and furniture. This bank has won many friends by its safe and conservative management.

At the close of business December 30, 1912, the Farmers & Merchants Bank, S. W. Copeland, president, J. H. Roberts, vice-president, and W. Max Walker, cashier, showed a net earning of 11 per cent. and a surplus of \$1,000 for the year's work. The stockholders and directors expressed themselves as being much gratified with these results, especially in consideration of the fact that this bank is only two years old. On January 10th, they will increase the capital stock \$10,000.

Both of these institutions showed confidence in their managements by re-electing the old officers and board of directors.

A number of our young people at college and in business came home to gladden parental firesides at Christmas. LeRoy Peters, Wingard Carter, and Hubert Steedly were at home from Furman university. Eddie Rentz, Raleigh Kinard, Clemmons Carter, and R. Clayton were here from Newberry college, while Misses Minnie Bishop and Annie Sue Kirkland were at home from Sumnerland. Percy Hiers, Leonard and Ira Carter were here from Charleston.

Three Christmas trees, one at the Ehrhardt Lutheran, one at the Mt. Pleasant Lutheran, and another at St. John's Baptist churches, gladdened the hearts of the children. Your reporter attended the one at St. John's, and noted 150 presents ranging in commercial value from 10c to \$5.00. The pastor of the Ehrhardt Lutheran church was fortunate enough to find among the limbs of one of the Christmas trees of his churches a ten dollar gold piece.

All Ehrhardt is welcoming the new Methodist pastor, Rev. G. C. Hutchinson. He is a young man of fine personal appearance and pleasant address. His last charge was Winnsboro, S. C. Mr. Hutchinson preached to a large congregation at the Baptist church Sunday night.

Quarterly conference was held with the Methodist church here last Saturday and Sunday. Mr. J. G. Rhoad, of Hunter's Chapel community, makes an efficient officer as secretary of this body. It was a rare privilege that the community enjoyed of hearing two very able sermons by Dr. Daniel, the presiding elder, during the conference.

Colston News.

Colston, Jan. 13.—All our farmers are busy walking over and planning out their this year's crop—how much they will plant and how much fertilizer they will use and what kind.

There has been some moving in our community, some out and some in. A. L. McMillan and family have moved out to Bamberg and Mr. Ephriam Bishop has taken charge of his farm, and several other changes have been made.

There are several new buildings going up in our Colston section. Must mean business.

La-grippe has its hold on most of the people. It has its right name. When it takes you it holds you with a firm grip.

The wedding bells rang so steadily before Christmas that the clappers all wore out, and as soon as the blacksmiths put them back in they will start to ringing again. Soon, I think.

Mrs. Mary E. Beard will celebrate

TRAGEDY IN LIVERY STABLE.

Proprietor Kills His Brother-in-Law, who Attacked Employee.

Helena, Ga., Jan. 11.—Joseph Jones was shot and instantly killed last night at Milan, ten miles from here, by Seab Jones, his brother-in-law, according to information received here to-day. The dead man is said to have entered the livery stable of his brother-in-law, and, for some unknown reason, to have shot at a negro employee, the bullet missing its mark.

Seab Jones, who was outside the stable, entered the stable to ascertain what the trouble was, according to reports, and in an ensuing quarrel shot and killed his brother-in-law.

The railroad commission of South Carolina last week elected Jno. G. Richards as chairman, he succeeding B. L. Caughman.

"Old Timer" Ruminates.

Wanderer's Rest, Jan. 13.—After many efforts an old man has concluded that there are two things hard to do: To wash his head in warm soap suds and keep the suds out of his eyes, the other to make a living for his family and pay all debts when due, for things are not as wanted always, for rain will come when dry weather is needed or a dry hot wave comes just in the period that moderate temperature should prevail, and the corn sheds its cotton sheds its fruit or is eat up in grass, and water everywhere sends the creeps down or up his spine, his face as long as a horse collar, lips pouting, kicks the cat, curses the dog, and vows he never saw the like before. Then lights his pipe of peace, begins to ruminate, and soon it dawns on his mind that fond memory brings 1865 when nothing was left save a little corn, business dead and 1867 when before any hope could be in sight rain began in February and rained almost daily until December, when the fields were seas of water and the boys could and did swim between the rows of corn and the little made had to be gathered in stick baskets and brought out of the fields on the shoulders of men bare foot and pants rolled up, for no horse could stand up in the fields. Then 1881, the year of heat and drought, nearly as bad for crops but health was given in place of fevers of '67. How was 1893 for a bad one, when rain fell all spring and summer, with the worst storm the 29th of August that was ever recorded here, when strong men's hearts feared and gentle woman wrung her hands in terror as trees fell prone to earth in heaps, the roar of the storm and blinding sheets of water wrap the home, with the shrill scream of sea birds driven from their home by the fierce raging of the storm. These were general, not to mention local hail and rain storms that left desolation in their wake, as did the rain on Colston a few years ago that one large and always truthful man says of that rain that he had a five hundred pound bacon box in his back yard and after the rain that box was full of water and running over besides the wood had to swell to stop the leakage.

Still the old world rolls on to its destiny, not a hitch in its running gear nor a cog broken, and not one thought of quits, but brave hearts and sturdy hands put all in motion and men lived and prospered. Now we have many of our best men leaving the farm for the city or town, as well as the men of color, who seek easier and faster ways of living not known in the quiet country home, until the pick and flower of youth and strong manhood it seems will be a thing of the past and owls and rabbits will be the sole occupants left, with a stray razor back to roam where once a happy and contented yeomanry lived. But thanks the mad rush will cease, the farmer will till the fields with barns bursting so full of the rich harvests, that is to come and is almost here when farmers will no longer trust ignorant labor to butcher and scratch his fields but the motor plow and cultivators of the West must come and will. Then will the boy say, "I am proud of my home; no saw mill nor factory for me." Watch the signs, hundreds and hundreds of acres of oats now up and growing, stands good, and all point to the greatest oats crop ever grown in this section. This is to be hoped is only the beginning. All points to a bright future, with plenty for all and no poverty in our midst.

OLD TIMER.

her 85th birthday on the 23rd instant. Everybody is invited to attend and bring well filled baskets. You too, Mr. Editor. F.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

The city council of Greenville has appropriated \$6,000 for the use of the city's board of health.

Revenue raiders destroyed four illicit stills in Pickens county and in northwest section of Greenville county last week.

Senator Tillman is out in a letter urging that the legislature reform the primary system and throw proper safeguards around the voting privilege.

Tom Odom and Bert Odom were convicted in Spartanburg last week of the murder of Ben Hanna last August and, the jury recommending them to mercy, were sentenced to life imprisonment. John Watson was convicted of manslaughter and was given five years for his part in the affair.

The legislature met Tuesday and Mendel L. Smith was re-elected speaker without opposition. Jas. A. Hoyt was re-elected clerk, defeating J. Wilson Gibbes by a large vote. The governor's message was read and the house and senate adjourned for the day. There were no evidences of factionalism shown.

Cecil C. Wyche, a new member of the legislature from Spartanburg county, announces through the press that he will introduce a bill in the legislature to abolish the hosiery mill in the penitentiary. He thinks the penitentiary itself should be abolished and all convicts put to work on the public roads.

The grand jury of Richland county last week presented the mayor and city council of Columbia for permitting turkey raffles in that city during the Christmas holidays. The city attorney, Christie Bennet, says that raffles were not against the law, because the turkeys were sold at the market price and each participant took the same chance.

Roquefort Cheese.

Roquefort cheese is made in France from the milk of a certain breed of sheep, which are fed on wild thyme, and the cheese has a wild time trying to keep from stinking itself to death in its infancy. The wild thyme grows on the banks on the Lot, Tarn and other rivers in the department of Aveyron in France, and after it has first been besheeped and then becheesed it generates a lot of the darndest smells that ever perambulated down the pike.

Thyme is a kind of aromatic plant with a pungent odor, and after it is converted into Roquefort cheese it is the pungentest thing known to man. After this cheese is made it is put in solitary confinement until its whiskers begin to turn gray and gangrene sets in, when it is taken out and chained to a post. Before it is served it is chloroformed or knocked in the head with an ax. It is then brought to the table in little square sections about the size of a domino. It is served at the close of meals together with black coffee. It usually has a running mate in the shape of a round cracker that has to be broken with a maul.

Roquefort cheese is a dull white color, except in spots, where mortification has set in. Some claim it to be inhabited, but this is not true. Even the intrepid and mephitic microbes flee from it as we flee from the pestilence. We have seen Limburger cheese strong enough to shoulder a sack of wheat, but a piece of Roquefort the size of a dice can carry an election. Limburger is a rose geranium when compared with Roquefort. There is as much difference between them as there is between the purr of a kitten and the roar of a lion. Some people who claim to be civilized say they like Roquefort cheese, but they only eat it because it is imported and expensive. A man who will eat it is an open sepulchre, and should be quarantined or driven into the wilderness and never again allowed to look into the face of a human being.

Work has commenced on the electric light and water works plant and will be pushed to completion. Two 6-inch wells are being bored, and material for the power house, etc., is arriving daily. The contract calls for the completion of the job by March 1st. The site of the plant is located on the Southern Railway, nearly opposite the Methodist parsonage property.—Barnwell People.

COMPROMISE PLANS FAIL.

Affairs of Closed Leesville Bank More Muddled.

Lexington, Jan. 11.—Contrary to all expectations no settlement was reached yesterday between the stockholders and directors of the defunct People's Bank, of Leesville, and its president, Dr. E. J. Etheridge, whose indebtedness to the bank is said to have caused the institution to close its doors on November 27 last.

At a joint meeting of the stockholders and directors of the bank, held on December 28, a committee of three—J. Lee Etheridge, of Augusta; John P. Able, of Leesville, and W. E. Bodie, of Batesburg—was appointed to make a full and complete settlement of the bank's affairs. They were given until January to make their report. It developed yesterday, it is said, that the closed institution is indebted to the National Loan and Exchange Bank, of Columbia, its correspondent, to the amount of about \$15,000.

Alleged Offer of Compromise.

The relatives of Dr. Etheridge, it is said, have raised the sum of \$8,000 and have offered this amount in the way of a compromise for his indebtedness to the institution, which, it is understood, amounts to approximately \$18,000. It appears now, also, that the depositors cannot hope to realize more than 50 per cent. any time soon, and to do this it will be necessary for a compromise to be effected with the National Loan and Exchange Bank, of Columbia, which compromise is now being considered.

While the stockholders are liable to the depositors to the amount of the stock held by each individual stockholder, under the State banking law, it is not believed that more than \$5,000 from this source could be raised. The bank holds a great deal of gilt-edge collateral, but hardly enough to pay off the depositors and the other creditors, too.

Receiver Possible.

In the event that the compromise can be agreed upon, it is probable that the next step will be to place the affairs of the institution in the hands of a receiver, but this course, it is admitted, will prove disastrous to all parties concerned.

Attorneys representing the bank and Dr. Etheridge held a conference in Columbia to-day, but the result of their efforts toward an amicable adjustment could not be learned. F. E. Dreher, of the Lexington law firm of Efrid & Dreher, who has been retained by Dr. Etheridge's family, when seen to-day, stated that he had nothing to make public at this time.

Dr. Etheridge, the president of the defunct bank, who absented himself from his home for several weeks, is now at Leesville and consulted with his counsel yesterday and is doing all in his power, it is stated, to raise sufficient funds to meet his obligations, not only to the bank, but to his other creditors.

The Annual Slaughter.

The accidents on the railways of this country constitute a great national waste of human life and labor. The interstate commerce commission announces that for the past fiscal year no less than 10,585 persons were killed and 169,536 injured in railway mishaps, making a total of 180,123. Of this total number 16,404 were passengers; 50,040 were employees and the remainder largely made up of trespassers and others not coming in the above classes.

These are appalling facts, especially so when considered in connection with the statistics from other countries. A closer supervision of public travel is needed with a view to safeguarding both the travelling public and the employees. The interstate commerce commission is endeavoring to alleviate the evil by investigations into the causes of wrecks and other accidents and then taking steps to eliminate such causes. The steel cars and the block system greatly lessen the number of casualties, but still there are other factors such as inadequate equipment which the laws must take cognizance of.—Greenville News.

Cow on the End.

Though he was given credit for telling the most remarkable story ever heard in a Wilmington, Del., court it did not save John Collins, colored, from going to the work house for 18 months and being whipped with 20 lashes. John solemnly declared he was walking along the road in Claymount when he saw a cow. A short distance away he saw a rope lying in the road, and, picking up the rope, he walked on. When he reached Wilmington he was stopped by a policeman and said he then was surprised to find the cow which he had seen at Claymount 10 miles away, was attached to the other end of the rope.

KILLS IMBECILE IN AIKEN

CRUSHED SKULL OF AGED MAN. IS UNMOLESTED BY OFFICERS.

Life of Aged Man Ebbs Slowly Away. Unattended and Neglected—Officers Investigate Matter.

Aiken, Jan. 14.—Struck upon the head Tuesday morning with some hard, heavy instrument, and his skull partially crushed in, Joe Tucker, white, a half-witted imbecile, living at or near Windsor, S. C., this county, died Sunday and the police authorities of the county are now looking for a negro named Will Smith, who is charged with administering the fatal blow to the old man.

Sheriff Henry H. Howard was notified of the old man's death, and in company with Rural Policeman S. E. Holley, left yesterday morning for Windsor, but the two men were unable to procure any trace of the negro, who had been in the employ of Mr. Jim Nunn for some time, but was not well known around the village and vicinity. However, the presence in Windsor of these officers resulted in an investigation of the case and brought to light a most startling condition which, if allegations be true, point to most unheard of conditions of affairs.

It was stated that the dead white man was a harmless, half-witted fellow, subject to epileptic fits, who was permitted to roam at will about the country; that on Tuesday morning he came in contact with the negro Smith, who, for some unknown reason, assaulted the old man, crushing in his skull, and after he struck the old man, he quietly returned to his work.

In the meantime the matter was reported to the magistrate, Mr. Gid C. Corley, and it is stated that Mr. Hiram Weeks, the chief of police, and others went to him and demanded a warrant for the arrest of the negro. However, for some unknown reason, the warrant was never issued, while the negro continued about the vicinity carrying on his work as usual, and making no effort to escape. He was not interfered with in any wise.

It is further alleged that no medical assistance was rendered the wounded man; that he was permitted to lie in bed unattended, while his life ebbed slowly but surely out. With the exception of a few partially lucid moments at rare intervals, the man was unconscious up until the time of his death—five days.

After having worked the remainder of Tuesday, all day Wednesday and a portion of Thursday—approximately two and one-half days—it is stated that Smith was informed that the old man was not expected to live; that he then became apprehensive and fled, making a clean getaway.

Some citizens of Windsor are reported to be highly indignant that the wounded man should have been accorded so little consideration and are scathingly denouncing the whole affair, particularly the attitude of the local officer of the law.

Sheriff Howard and Rural Policeman Holley have returned to Aiken, since they are unable to secure any trace of the negro.

The matter was first called to the attention of Rural Policeman Holley, when he was in Windsor, Thursday. Unassisted, he made the first effort to capture the negro, but this was as ineffectual as the succeeding trials.

LAST VESTIGE OF THE MAINE.

Work of Removal from Havana Harbor Now Complete.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Work of removing the last remnants of the wreck of the battleship Maine and the accumulation that gathered about it in the bottom of Havana harbor is completed. Col. Balk, of the corps of engineers, who was detailed to carry out the undertaking, has submitted a general report on the subject and a detailed account of expenditures will be forthcoming.

Following the removal of the after portion of the Maine, which was floated last February and towed to sea and buried on March 16 last, it still was necessary to remove the cofferdam, which had been built around the wreck, as well as to remove clay, rocks and other accumulations so as to restore the site to the condition it was on the memorable day in February, fifteen years ago, when the battleship went to the bottom.

The question of safeguarding the primary is in the hands of the legislature. What they will do is problematical, but we are afraid they will do nothing.

CAN'T KISS BY TELEGRAPH.

Russian Censorship Over Wires Forbids Any Use of Cypher.

The "Russkoe Slovo" gives some interesting sidelights on the complications and general difficulties which a new Russian postoffice order has caused for private individuals who use the telegraph as a means of communicating their thoughts and desires as rapidly as possible.

The telegraph employees were recently ordered, says the London Standard, to take special care in receiving private messages that contained any words or phrases that might be of ambiguous meaning, and might be suspected to take the place of a code.

Such messages were to be refused, and in cases of doubt when anything suspicious was found after reception the offending dubious parts were to be omitted from the message.

A correspondent of the "Russkoe Slovo" saw a young woman, evidently of high degree, in angry altercation with the employee at the counter. The fact was only too evident that the two were flatly contradicting each other, and it was also plain that all the signs of the cross that were made to attest the truth of her assertions were of no avail against the skepticism of the official.

The correspondent was then let into the secret of the dispute. There lay on the counter an apparently harmless note from the young woman to her husband. It finished with the rather conventional ending "10,000 X," which plainly meant nothing more than what the four or five-year-old boy commonly sends to his mother before he has learned to write.

But the official, possibly no great enthusiast for such childish lyricism, held the message up and asked what was meant.

"Kisses!" said the young woman, wondering whether he were ignorant or disbelieving.

"But what do you mean by kisses?" replied the official, who was by no means satisfied by the answer.

"The kiss of a wife, of course!" said the woman.

"But how are we to be sure?" asked the man. "It may mean bombs, or even forbidden books. We can not accept cypher messages, and we must be quite certain that the senders of telegrams really mean what they say."

And as the official was not at all sure of the literal accuracy of the "10,000 X" that part of the message was ultimately suppressed.

Negro Murders Wife.

Greenwood, Jan. 12.—One of the most horrible murders ever committed anywhere in this section was that last night by a negro man, Levi Kinard, who almost severed his wife's head from her body after lying in wait for her for several hours in the heart of the residence section of the town.

Kinard and his wife had separated some months ago, but he had been making threats against her life for some time. She had heard of them and was so terrified that she asked her employers to let her sleep in the kitchen. Last night, however, the woman went out upon the street in company with another negro woman, and as they were entering Cambridge street, through an alley near the residence of Mayor Baker, Kinard, who had been crouching there probably night after night, sprang out upon them, grabbed his wife by the waist and in an incredibly short time accomplished the murder.

It seems from testimony that a big knife was used, for apparently a razor could not have done the horrible work.

Kinard made good his escape. He came here from Leesville some months ago and has been working as a section hand on the C. & W. C. He is 30 years old, black, height, 5 feet 6, and weighs 145 pounds. He has two upper front teeth false. He has relatives at Leesville and also at Prosperity. The town and county, through Sheriff McMillan, offers \$50 reward for his capture.

Girls Self-Supporting.

There are 719 girls in the University of Texas and of this number 81 are self-supporting and twice that number are seeking employment. Many girls have borrowed money at usurious rates and gone out into the world after graduation burdened with the debt. The Daughters of the American Revolution of Texas is trying to establish a fund that will enable the organization to become the lenders of the money to girls needing it without any interest.